



City Council

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CIP File
Metropolitan Airports Commission
6040 28th Ave. So.
Minneapolis, MN 55450

RE: Review of Proposed 2003-2009 CIP

Dear Mr. Vorpahl:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on MAC's Capital Improvement Program for the seven-year period beginning 2003. We recognize that the proposed CIP is designed to allow for a degree of flexibility to accommodate construction schedules and funding capabilities. We also recognize that this CIP must accommodate a significantly stressed industry.

A substantial concern of the City's is that MAC anticipates submitting a new noise exposure map (NEM) to FAA sometime in June 2003 with the expectation that FAA will approve it by the end of 2003. Untreated homes eligible in the 1996 program that are not included in the new NEM may not be eligible for sound insulation under FAA regulations. We are very concerned that homes which have been scheduled for sound mitigation since 1996, and which would have been done if historical budget levels had been maintained, will not be treated.

Last year we expressed concerns that the dramatic cutback to the noise mitigation program for 2002 would significantly increase the timeframe for completion of homes and multi-family units eligible for noise relief within the 1996 DNL contour. Those concerns are now heightened. The Commission's *Part 150 Status Report* indicates that as of October 23rd, only two thirds of this year's program budget of \$9 million had been expended with two bid cycles left this year. Our expectation is that any unexpended dollars from this year's program will be carried over and added to next year's budget, not simply viewed as "saved" budgeted funds.

While the noise mitigation program was significantly reduced, total operations activity was down less than one per cent year-to-date through September and about 3.6% lower than year-to-date 2000. Operations of the major airlines were only three per cent lower in 2002 as compared to 2001 and in the summer of this year the number of nighttime operations over Minneapolis exceeded 2001 night operations. In short, current operations are close to the same levels as 2000 and 2001, and noise is also at virtually the same levels.

The majority of funding for the noise mitigation program is through PFC's and AIP grants, neither of which can be attributed as an expense to the airlines. We believe that the noise mitigation program budget for 2003 should be significantly increased

in order to fulfill repeated commitments made by MAC to residents in the 1996 65 DNL contours. This is a years old problem that should receive higher priority over expansion projects.

At the beginning of this year 932 single family homes were eligible for the 1996 sound insulation program. With two bid cycles still remaining this year, it is anticipated that 230 homes will be awarded. At the MAC's proposed CIP expenditure about 335 homes would be completed each year of 2003 and 2004, thereby completing the 1996 single family program. While not all remaining homes will choose to enter the program, approximately \$30.8 million needs to be budgeted just to complete the single family program. The greater portion of this should be budgeted for 2003.

The pilot work for the multiple family program was initiated this year. Mitigation work is proposed on the 1996 multiple family program in 2003 through 2005. We are very much concerned that multi-family units which should ordinarily have been completed under the current program will not be treated.

We urge the Commission to commit to a funding level necessary for the completion of the entire 1996 program before the adoption of a new NEM. What are the Commission's plans for addressing these residences with or without federal funding approval?

We look forward to your response and deliberations as you develop your CIP.

Sincerely,



Sandra Colvin Roy, Chair
Transportation and Public Works Committee
City of Minneapolis

Please note that this letter will be approved by the Transportation and Public Works Committee and come before the full City Council on December 13, 2002. The City Council may or may not make amendments to this letter. We will submit a copy of the City's final action as soon as possible.